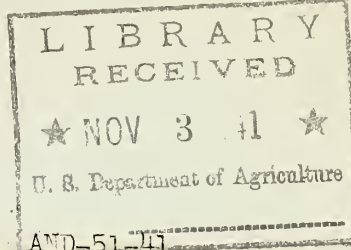


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

FARM MACHINERY REPAIR DRIVE: USDA defense boards are to hold State meetings early in November to launch a campaign to repair farm machinery. Shortly afterward county defense boards will gather to get the drive going on a local basis. This campaign easily may be one of most important activities of agriculture in next few months. Putting used machinery in working shape will be essential to achieving next year's food goals. Farmers just won't be able to buy as much new farm machinery as they probably will need. There isn't enough steel to go around and farm equipment manufacturers will have to get along on less than they had in 1940 and 1941.

ENOUGH METAL FOR REPAIRS: Government plans to make metal available for sufficient repair parts to recondition used equipment. Farmers will be urged to check machinery and order spare parts early. Quick action necessary to give dealers and manufacturers an idea of what demand will be for spare parts. Also early ordering will give opportunity to get stuff moved before transportation begins to groan under strain of defense production.

NOT FARMER PROGRAM ALONE: Defense boards will need cooperation of manufacturers, merchants, mechanics, blacksmiths, schools, and colleges. With the concurrence of OPM, the Secretary has advised all farm machinery manufacturers of the repair campaign and has asked their full cooperation. An inventory will be made of farmers and others skilled in repairing machinery. Wherever possible more men will be trained in such work and more repair shop facilities created. This is a big job and necessary part of defense program.

OPM PROVIDES FOR 1,340,000 MILK CANS: Grants A-5 preference rating to manufacturers of milk cans and limited A-5 to makers of hot-dip tinned and tin plate dairy equipment. Plan effective at once and ends next March 15. OPM says it will make enough steel available for manufacture of 955,000 new milk cans -- judged sufficient to handle 8 billion pound milk increase called for in 1942. Also allocating steel for 385,000 cans on basis that that many needed for normal replacements.

RATING FOR TIN PLATE EQUIPMENT: Enough steel will be allocated to provide increase of 6.8 percent in dairy pails, milk strainer pails, milk kettles, milk strainers, and setter or cream cans to take care of requested 6.8 percent increase in milk production. Program worked out by OPM in cooperation with USDA. CPM warned that ratings may not be used to build up inventories. Each manufacturer required to show intention of doing his part to see that cans and other equipment are available to producers before next spring.

SCRAP METAL CAMPAIGN: Drive to get scrap metal from farms to defense industry was launched this week when Secretary Wickard wrote all State Defense Board chairmen requesting them to inaugurate campaign. Boards asked to make plans for their States and enlist county defense boards in effort. Donald Nelson, SPAB executive director, asked Secretary Wickard to lay before farmers serious actual and impending shortages of iron and steel scrap. Nelson added that civilian shortages of steel, including steel for implements and parts needed by farmers, will be more severe if we cannot keep steel mills running at capacity. This is a challenge to all Agriculture to make a success of this campaign in the interests of National Defense. Both patriotism and self-interest will be served by farmers making scrap available for use.

DO NOT SCRAP USEFUL MACHINERY: Nothing that can be reconditioned and used should be scrapped. That would defeat our own purposes by making more machinery replacements necessary. SPAB points out that farmers usually keep old implements about and strip from them bolts, gears, or other parts needed to repair newer machinery. Farmers should remove such usable parts now and scrap the rest.

PRICES FARMERS MAY EXPECT: Farmers are not expected to give their scrap away. Maps have been sent to defense boards which can be used to show what prices farmers reasonably can expect in various sections. Due to a number of factors, including transportation and preparation charges and price ceilings, prices for scrap will not be high. Farmers are asked to sell their scrap as a service to the Nation rather than as a way of making money. Members of defense boards should be able to advise farmers approximately what prices they can expect. The Secretary has made suggestions to defense boards on carrying out campaign and giving necessary help and information to farmers.